Supply

Government programs and the Government's failure to take affirmative action.

I also spoke of another trend in our modern society. The fact that the Throne Speech is so full of empty promises reminds me of the story I recited to that group. I said that what we must beware of today is the modern equivalent of the false prophets, because there are a number of them in this country. The federal Liberal Government certainly has a number of false prophets.

I would like to refer to some of the techniques used by these false prophets. One technique, of course, is to announce that there will be a new Government program or a change in Government programs. The literature is distributed across the country, with Cabinet Ministers making speeches here and there. However, the Government never actually introduces the changes or new programs. In other words, it simply takes the publicity and runs. There is no action.

Another technique of these false prophets is to advertise a program throughout the country, again distributing fancy brochures, such as those which have been distributed concerning the Crow rate. The Government does everything to make people feel that there are programs for small business, for women, for pensioners and others in the country. However, the Government never explains to small businessmen, fishermen and farmers that they do not qualify for the programs. In other words, the Government does not come clean as to what its programs are about.

A third technique is for the Government to announce a program, advertise a program and actually introduce it. It is passed, and people do qualify for it. However, when they apply for it, they find that there are only limited funds available.

Those are three of the techniques used by the Government's false prophets. However, like many false prophets, all they do is turn off those who are listening to those words almost in a worshipful sense.

We need a new Throne Speech. Canadians need new legislation. They need leadership in the country. We are in very serious economic times. It is hurting the social fabric of our families. It is hurting women, children and those people who wish to be working. It is hurting those who wish to keep their farms away from the Royal Bank, those who wish to be able to keep their businesses going. They need a new Throne Speech. After three years, Canadians deserve a Throne Speech and leadership. What they do not want and what they would absolutely reject is another series of pronouncements by false prophets, promising and promising but never delivering, never providing the services, and never giving any leadership or showing any concern over the plight of Canadians. We want such a Throne Speech, but we want to ensure that it is not simply a bunch of political propaganda financed by taxpayers and with no follow-up. Give us the leadership, but ensure that it is not simply political crap.

Mr. Clarke: Was the Hon. Member for Churchill telling the House that the Government had failed miserably in its attempts to carry out the commitments made in the Speech from the Throne given in the other place? Is he saying that the present Government has shown a singular lack of leadership in resolving the problems of ordinary Canadians? Is he asking the Liberal Party to resign its position in Government and to face the electorate, or is he at least calling for the resignation of the Prime Minister so that the rank and file of the Liberal Party of Canada, those who are so embarrassed by their Party can be given an opportunity to elect a new House Leader so that there may be some new direction for the country?

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, of course I agree with the concerns raised by the Hon. Member for Vancouver Quadra. In terms of what I was asking, I was of course following the wording of the Conservative Opposition motion which, unfortunately, does not call for the resignation of the Government. I wish it did. However, if the Hon. Member has asked me whether or not the Government has provided leadership, I must of course say no. If he has asked me whether it has kept its promises, I must say no. If the Hon. Member has asked me whether it is providing leadership, I must say no. If he has asked me whether it should resign, I must say yes.

• (1710)

Mr. Clarke: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Hon. Member for Churchill (Mr. Murphy) could not have foreseen this in 1979 when he and his colleagues so easily supported the Members opposite?

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, we have spent most of this debate talking about the fact that the Throne Speech is three years old. The Tories' grudge is much older than that. On February 18, 1980, the people of Canada turned the Conservative Government out.

Mr. Clarke: They were misled.

Mr. Murphy: The Hon. Member says that they were misled. Let me explain again what happened for those who have a kind of revisionist sense of history.

The former Minister of Finance introduced a budget. After the Liberals moved a non-confidence motion, we in this part of the House of Commons proposed our own amendment explaining why we could not support the budget. The Conservative Government of that day decided that it would not amend its budget and would not discuss and work with its allies in the House of Commons, the Social Credit Party, and let the vote take place. It was defeated in that vote. Two months later it was defeated, not by the Liberals or the NDP but by the people of Canada. The people of Canada rejected that budget, they rejected the Government and they rejected the leader of that Party.

That Party is in the process of ejecting that same leader now. I see no reason for us to be condemned for doing three years earlier what they are now doing.

Mr. Clarke: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Churchill needs a lesson in numbers, I am afraid. He talks about the lack of the Government in 1979 to collect the votes of a Party